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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide for the designation of the Russian Federation as a state sponsor
of terrorism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LIEU introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To provide for the designation of the Russian Federation
as a state sponsor of terrorism.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Russia is a State Spon-
5 sor of Terrorism Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Pursuant to existing law, it is United States
9 policy to designate countries that have repeatedly

1 provided support for acts of international terrorism
2 as state sponsors of terrorism.

3 (2) Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of
4 North Korea, Iran, and Syria are designated as
5 state sponsors of terrorism.

6 (3) At the direction of President Vladimir
7 Putin, the Government of the Russian Federation
8 has and continues to promote acts of international
9 terrorism against political opponents and nation
10 states.

11 (4) Under the orders of President Putin, the
12 Government of the Russian Federation engaged in a
13 campaign of terror, utilizing brutal force targeting
14 civilians during the Second Chechen War.

15 (5) Actions by the Government of the Russian
16 Federation against civilian centers, such as Grozny,
17 the capital of Chechnya, left countless innocent men,
18 women, and children dead or wounded.

19 (6) Since 2014, the Government of the Russian
20 Federation has supported separatists engaging in
21 acts of violence against Ukrainian civilians in the
22 Donbas region.

23 (7) The Government of the Russian Federation
24 provides material support to Syria, a nation cur-

1 rently designated as a state sponsor of terrorism,
2 that has been used to target the Syrian people.

3 (8) According to the Congressional Research
4 Service, the Russian Federation uses private military
5 networks of mercenaries, such as the Wagner Group,
6 which collaborates with the Ministry of Defense of
7 the Russian Federation, to support the foreign pol-
8 icy objectives of the Russian Federation. These pri-
9 vate mercenary networks supported by the Russian
10 Federation have spread terror in various parts of the
11 world.

12 (9) The Department of the Treasury identifies
13 the Wagner Group as “a designated Russian Min-
14 istry of Defense proxy force” and states that “Wag-
15 ner’s activities in other countries, including Ukraine,
16 Syria, Sudan, and Libya, have generated insecurity
17 and incited violence against innocent civilians”.

18 (10) It was reported in February 2022 that
19 more than 400 Russian mercenaries from the Wag-
20 ner Group were dispatched to Kyiv with orders from
21 the Kremlin to assassinate President Volodymyr
22 Zelensky and members of the Government of
23 Ukraine.

24 (11) On March 1, 2022, Jason Blazakis, the di-
25 rector of the Department of State’s Counterter-

1 rorism Finance and Designations Office in the Bu-
2 reau of Counterterrorism from 2008 to 2018, wrote
3 in reference to white supremacist groups that “Rus-
4 sia provides sanctuary to a U.S.-designated terrorist
5 group, the Russian Imperial Movement, which oper-
6 ates with impunity in Russian territory.”.

7 (12) On March 17, 2022, President Volodymyr
8 Zelensky called for the world to acknowledge the
9 Russian Federation as a terrorist state.

10 (13) The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has ap-
11 pealed to Congress to encourage the Department of
12 State to recognize the Russian Federation as a state
13 sponsor of terrorism noting that “the Russian Fed-
14 eration has for years supported and financed ter-
15 rorist regimes and terrorist organizations, including
16 being the main supplier of weapons to the Assad re-
17 gime in Syria and supporting terrorists in the Mid-
18 dle East and Latin America, organizing acts of
19 international terrorism, including the poisoning of
20 the Skripal family in the United Kingdom of Great
21 Britain and Northern Ireland, the downing of a civil-
22 ian Malaysian airliner and other acts of terrorism”.

23 (14) On November 23, 2022, the European
24 Parliament recognized Russia as a state sponsor of
25 terrorism.

1 (15) On November 23, 2022, the European
2 Parliament recognized the Russian Federation as a
3 state sponsor of terrorism.

4 (16) On January 26, 2023, the Department of
5 the Treasury designated the Wagner Group as a
6 Transnational Criminal Organization, citing that
7 “Wagner personnel have engaged in an ongoing pat-
8 tern of serious criminal activity, including mass exe-
9 cutions, rape, child abductions, and physical abuse
10 in the Central African Republic (CAR) and Mali”.

11 (17) As of January 26, 2023, the Wagner
12 Group has also been sanctioned by Australia, Can-
13 ada, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the European
14 Union.

15 (18) On February 25, 2023, the European
16 Union implemented Council Regulation 2023/430,
17 which sanctioned eight people and seven entities for
18 serious human rights abuses linked to the Wagner
19 Group in the Central African Republic and Sudan.

20 (19) On February 27, 2023, United Nations
21 Secretary-General António Guterres called Russia’s
22 actions in Ukraine “the most massive violations of
23 human rights” in the world today in a speech to the
24 Human Rights Council in Geneva.

1 (20) The United States has a range of tools
2 available to hold the Russian Federation account-
3 able, reduce its war machine, and isolate it economi-
4 cally and diplomatically, including by designating it
5 as a state sponsor of terrorism and imposing cor-
6 responding sanctions.

7 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AS A**
8 **STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning on the date
10 of the enactment of this Act, the Russian Federation shall
11 be deemed to have been determined to be a country the
12 government of which has repeatedly provided support for
13 acts of international terrorism for purposes of—

14 (1) section 1754(c)(1)(A) of the Export Control
15 Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A));

16 (2) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act
17 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

18 (3) section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act
19 (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

20 (4) any other provision of law.

21 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
22 may be construed as to provide for the imposition of sanc-
23 tions against any person that engages in transactions to
24 export agricultural products from Ukraine or to provide
25 humanitarian assistance in Ukraine.